Megan Campbell

George Washington. Who is he? He was a war commander for many years when the Patriots were battling for their independence. Now he is elected President of the United States. Being the very first major person in charge of a newly formed country, there are many challenges to turn into accomplishments. Some challenges President George Washington had were precedents, government so not just one person has control of the whole country, and the national debt which was left over from the war between Patriots and Great Britain.

One decision that Washington had was making precedents or traditions. One precedent was how the people would address the President? Vice President John Adams supported “His Highness the President of the United States” which was later shortened to “Mr. President”. This was more appropriate because “His Highness…” sounded too much like a King/Queen.

People didn’t want to go back to a dictator (king or queen) government. So President Washington chose people to be the head of 3 departments. The first department was the secretary of war which was ran by Henry Knox, Alexander Hamilton as secretary of treasury and Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state. Washington appointed Edmund Randolph as Attorney General. Another way he made it so America didn’t have a dictator government, he proposed 12 bills which guarantees personal liberties. Only 10 passed and they became known as the Bill of Rights. Later they were added to the Constitution.

After the war, there was a big national debt. Hamilton had a plan to use bonds which were paper notes promising to repay the money in a certain amount of time. But some owners sold their bonds for less money and became rich. While the original owners, felt betrayed because they weren’t being paid their money. When this was happening Washington had to come in and sort things out. President Washington made it so the people got their money back because under Hamilton’s plan, they would have had to pay more than their share.

In September of 1796, Washington announced he wouldn’t be seeking a third term as president. While he was president he got the new country off to a good start. He accomplished new traditions for future presidents to follow. He also made the government where the citizens had a say in the government’s actions and dealing with the national debt. In Washington’s 2 terms, he was an amazing president that didn’t back down when he was faces with a challenge.